

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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OLNEY WOMAN CONVICTED FOR DESTROYING EVIDENCE IN CHILD PORN INVESTIGATION

Edward E. McNally, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on February 1, 2006, **AMANDA WORTMAN**, age 22, of Olney, Illinois, was convicted following a two day jury trial in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. **WORTMAN** was convicted of knowingly destroying physical evidence with the intent to impede, obstruct, and influence the investigation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The crime occurred on February 22, 2005, in Olney, Illinois.

The evidence at trial showed that the FBI was conducting an investigation of **RYAN WILLIAM McDONALD**, age 26, of Olney, Illinois, for charges involving child pornography. During the course of that investigation, **WORTMAN** destroyed a CD-ROM which was believed to contain child pornography, with the intent to impede, obstruct, and influence the FBI investigation. Sentencing is set for **WORTMAN** on May 4, 2006, in the United States Courthouse in Benton, Illinois. **WORTMAN** faces a maximum penalty of twenty years in prison, a fine of up to \$250,000, and a term of up to four years of supervised release.

McDONALD had previously pleaded guilty on January 26, 2006, to one count of receiving child pornography, two counts of possession of child pornography, and one count of knowingly destroying physical evidence, with the intent to impede, obstruct, and influence the investigation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. His sentencing is scheduled for April 27, 2006, in the United States Courthouse in Benton, Illinois.

With respect to the charge of receiving child pornography, **McDONALD** faces possible penalties of a term of imprisonment of up to 15 years, a fine of not more than \$250,000, and a term of supervised release of up to 3 years.

With respect to the two counts of possessing child pornography, **McDONALD** faces possible penalties of a term of imprisonment of up to 10 years, a fine of not more than \$250,000, and a term of

supervised release of up to 3 years.

With respect to the count of destroying evidence, **McDONALD** faces possible penalties of a term of imprisonment of up to 20 years, a fine of not more than \$250,000, and a term of supervised release of up to 4 years.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Richland County Sheriff's Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George A. Norwood.

The United States Attorney's Office, in conjunction with federal and state law enforcement authorities, is actively investigating and prosecuting individuals who produce, distribute, or possess child pornography. Anyone with information concerning the use of the Internet for the purposes of trafficking in child pornography is encouraged to contact their local police department or the Federal Bureau of Investigation.